



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett
Southern District of Indiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/>

CONTACT: TIM HORTY

(317) 716-4250

tim.horty@usdoj.gov

HOGSETT ANNOUNCES INDIANAPOLIS MAN CONVICTED OF SHELBYVILLE ROBBERY, SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

INDIANAPOLIS - United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett today announced the recent sentencing of John Baxter, 33, Indianapolis, to 300 months (25 years) in federal prison following his pleas of guilty to robbery and brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence.

The case was the result of a two month investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, the Lawrenceburg Police Department, and the Shelbyville Police Department, into a string of armed and strong armed robberies in central and southern Indiana. Based on witness descriptions and video surveillance from the businesses, authorities determined that Baxter was responsible for five robberies in Marion, Shelby, and Dearborn Counties, between August 22, and August 30, 2010.

On August 30, 2010, at approximately 11:00 p.m., Baxter entered the Cork Liquors located at 410 Vine Street, in Shelbyville, Indiana. Baxter approached the customer service counter with a large can of Heineken beer and told the clerk he also wanted a bottle of Patron Tequila. The clerk took a bottle of Patron from the shelf behind the counter and Baxter gave the clerk money as if he was going to pay for the items. When the clerk rang up the sale and opened the cash register, however, Baxter produced a chrome, semi-automatic handgun, pointed it at the clerk and began removing money from the cash register. After taking money from the cash register, Baxter ordered the clerk to give him another bottle of Patron Tequila. After the clerk complied, Baxter fled the store with approximately \$300 in cash and two bottles of Patron tequila valued at approximately \$50 each.

Thereafter, in the early morning hours of August 31, 2010, Baxter was arrested on a public intoxication charge at the Hollywood Casino in Lawrenceburg, Ind. At the time of Baxter's arrest, law enforcement officers noted that Baxter matched the description of the individual that robbed the Lawrenceburg BP three days earlier. A female who was with Baxter at the Casino told police that she and Baxter were staying at a local hotel, and subsequently consented to police searching their shared hotel room. During the course of that search, Lawrenceburg Police recovered a chrome, AMT, model Backup, .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun, Police officers also recovered several other items which tied Baxter to the robberies.

Subsequent to Baxter's arrest, ATF agents reviewed Baxter's criminal history and determined that Baxter had been convicted of Burglary in 1996, in Marion County, Indiana; Theft / Receiving Stolen Property in 2001, in Marion County, Indiana; Resisting Law Enforcement in 2003, in Marion County, Indiana; and Theft in 2007, in Hendricks County, Indiana. As a convicted felon, Baxter was prohibited from possessing any firearm or ammunition.

Baxter's conviction also included the following robberies:

August 22, 2010, Baxter robbed the Village Pantry at 1224 South Harding Street in Indianapolis.

August 27, 2010, Baxter robbed the BP gas station located 622 Arch Street in Lawrenceville.

August 28, 2010, Baxter robbed the Vineyard Liquors located at 4899 Kentucky Avenue, in Indianapolis.

August 28, 2010 one half hour after the Kentucky Avenue robbery, Baxter robbed the All Star Liquors located at 2910 South Lynhurst in Indianapolis.

Baxter pled guilty to robbing the BP in Lawrenceburg, the Vineyard Liquors in Indianapolis, and the Cork Liquors in Shelbyville. Baxter also pled guilty to using a firearm in connection with the robbery of Vineyard Liquors. Baxter received a sentence of 18 years in connection with his pleas of guilty to the three robberies, and a consecutive, mandatory minimum prison term of seven years in connection with his plea of guilty to using the firearm in the Vineyard Liquors robbery.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew J. Rinka, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Lawrence also imposed five years supervised release following Baxter's release from prison. Baxter was also ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$2,044 to the businesses he robbed.

###

Baxter.Shelbyville.20110706.wpd